

Claims 1-2, 20, and 114-115 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,259,288 to *Vatsvog*. Claims 3-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Vatsvog*.¹ Claims 6-19, 21-36, and 38-52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Vatsvog* in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,144,827 to *Boutwell*.

Independent claims 1, 21, and 114 have all been amended to recite that a plastic structure is “injection” molded around another structure. None of the cited references discloses or suggests any plastic structure that is injection molded around another structure. All of the references deal only with structures that are separately manufactured and thereafter assembled.

Claim 38 defines an ammunition article including a molded plastic cartridge case body having a closed front end and a second end, wherein the closed front end includes walls that reduce in thickness toward an axial center of the closed front end. *Boutwell* only discloses that the end wall 6 is relatively thin, and does not disclose that the walls reduce in thickness toward an axial center of the closed front end.

The view of the differences between Claim 28 and *Boutwell*, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 38 and the claims dependent therefrom are not anticipated by *Boutwell*.

¹The discussion of the rejection in the Official Action refers to “Ballreich”, presumably U.S. Patent No. 4,809,612 to *Ballreich et al.*, which was applied in an earlier action. The claims are submitted to define patentably over *Ballreich et al.* alone or in combination with any other references, as well.

Claim 39 defines an ammunition article including a molded plastic cartridge case body having a closed front end and a second end, wherein the closed front end includes at least one stress concentrator for causing preferential tearing of the closed front end at the at least one stress concentrator. *Boutwell* only discloses that the end wall 6 of the case 2 is relatively thin. Stress is not necessarily concentrated in any particular area in the thin end wall 6.

In view of the differences between Claim 39 and *Boutwell*, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 39 is not anticipated by *Boutwell*.


If the Examiner continues to maintain that the structure of claims 38 and 39 is disclosed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to identify where this structure -- specifically, the structure noted above -- is found in the cited references.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims, claims 1-36 and 38-115, are in condition for allowance. Allowance is cordially urged.

If the Examiner should be of the opinion that a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX

Amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) An ammunition article, comprising:

[a] an injection molded plastic cartridge casing body having a first end and a second end; and

a projectile attached to the first end of the cartridge casing body,

wherein the cartridge casing body is injection molded around at least a portion of the projectile.

21. (Amended) An ammunition article, comprising:

a cartridge casing body having a first end and a second end;

a projectile attached to the first end of the cartridge casing body; and

a single piece, injection molded plastic base, the base being [attached to] injection molded around the second end of the cartridge casing body.

114. (Amended) An ammunition article comprising:

a projectile having cannellure contours; and

a molded cartridge casing body injection molded around at least a portion of the projectile such that a portion of a wall of the cartridge casing body follows the cannellure contours of the projectile.